REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on September 22, 2005, claims 39, 41-43, 45-47, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Claus in view of Glasser; and claims 40, 44 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Claus and Glasser and further in view of Lee. The § 103 rejections are addressed below.

§ 103 Rejections of Claims 39-42:

The method of independent claim 39 includes providing a visual interface on a second computer system to notify a user of the second computer system of a request from a first computer system to provide an identification of the second computer system and prompting the user to allow or deny the request.

A prima facie case of obviousness has not been established for independent claim 39 for at least the reason that the hypothetical combination of Claus and Glasser fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations. In this regard, the Examiner concedes that Claus fails to disclose the act of providing and prompting of independent claim 39. Office Action, 3. However, Glasser fails to teach or suggest the missing claim limitations.

More specifically, Glasser merely discloses a peer server 120 that, as noted by the Examiner, may include a visual display. In the language cited by the Examiner, Glasser discloses setting access permissions of the peer server 120. Glasser does not, however, teach or suggest prompting a user of the peer server 120 whether or not to allow or deny a request for the peer server 120 to identify itself. Rather, the permissions that are disclosed in Glasser with respect to the server 120 pertain to access permissions regarding whether or not entities of a network may access peer server 120, not to requests for identification of the peer server 120 by these entities. Furthermore, due to the very nature of the peer server 120, there is no reason for a user of the peer server 120 to be prompted whether to allow or deny an identification request. Thus, Glasser fails to teach or suggest the missing claim limitations.

Claims 40-42 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

§ 103 Rejections of Claims 43-46:

The article of independent claim 43 includes a storage medium that is readable by a first processor-based system. The storage medium stores instructions to cause a processor of the first processor-based computer system to provide a visual interface on a second computer system to notify a user of the second computer system of a request from a first computer system for the second computer system to provide an identification of the second computer system and prompt a user of the second computer system to allow or deny the request.

See discussion of independent claim 39 above. In particular, the hypothetical combination of Claus and Glasser fails to teach or suggest instructions to cause a processor-based computer system to provide the visual interface that is set forth in independent claim 43. Claus fails to teach or suggest such a visual interface as conceded by the Examiner. Glasser merely discloses using access permissions on a peer server and fails to teach or suggest the missing claim limitations. Therefore, for at least these reasons, withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of claims 43-46 is requested.

§ 103 Rejections of Claims 47-50:

As amended, the system of independent claim 47 includes a first computer that is coupled to a database to provide a visual interface on the first computer to notify a user of the first computer of a request from a second computer for the first computer to provide an identification of the first computer and prompt a user of the first computer to allow or deny the request.

See discussion of independent claim 39 above. In particular, for at least the reason that the hypothetical combination of Claus and Glasser fails to teach or suggest providing a visual interface to allow a user of a first computer to allow or deny a request from a second computer for the first computer to identify itself, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been set forth for independent claim 47.

Claims 48-50 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim. Thus, for at least the reasons that are set forth above, withdrawal of the § 103 rejections of claims 47-50 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the § 103 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to pay any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0160US).

Respectfully submitted,

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